

Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 04866 132131Z
ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 PRS-01 PA-01 /047 W
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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3794
INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, SP
SUBJECT: WCL VIEWS ON SPANISH LABOR SCENE

1. IN A BRIEFING MAY 12 FOR BRUSSELS-BASED LABOR ATTACHES, JAN KULAKOWSKI, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF LABOR, SAID THAT THE WCL OPPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISM IN SPAIN. "WE ARE NOT PARTISANS OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISM IN SPAIN, EVEN IF IT SPRINGS FROM NON-FASCIST ROOTS," HE SAID,

2. A PRESS RELEASE DISTRIBUTED BY KULAKOWSKI STATE THAT THE APRIL 25-29 MEETING OF THE WCL CONFEDERAL BOARD "DENOUNCED THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO USURP THE TITLE OF 'CHRISTIAN UNIONISM' FOR EXAMPLE IN SPAIN, TO TRY TO LEGITIMIZE THEIR POLICY OF COLLABORATION WITH THE DICTATORSHIP IN POWER, WHILE THE WORKERS' INTERESTS HAVE BEEN DEFENDED IN SPAIN FOR MORE THAN FORTY YEARS IN CLANDESTINITY BY AUTHENTIC ORGANIZATIONS TO WHICH THE WCL HAS ALWAYS GIVEN ITS SUPPORT."

3. IT WAS UNCLEAR WHY THE WCL WAS MAKING THIS POINT.
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UNDER QUESTIONING, KULAKOWSKI WOULD SAY ONLY THAT THERE ARE "FORMER FRACOISTS TRYING TO PRESENT THEMSELVES AS CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISTS," BUT HE DID NOT IDENTIFY THEM. JESUS INSAUSTI, THE WCL PRESS OFFICER, CLAIMED THAT THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED VERTICAL UNIONS RECENTLY USED THE TERM OF CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONISM TO DESCRIBE THEMSELVES IN A RECENT PUBLICATION.

4. BOTH KULAKOWSKI AND INSAUSTI EXPRESSED STRONG DIS-SATISFACTION WITH THE RATE OF PROGRESS TOWARD TRADE UNION FREEDOM IN SPAIN. HOWEVER, RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE RECENT WCL BOARD MEETING DID NOT CONTAIN THIS CRITICISM. NOR IS THE WCL PLANNING TO FILE A COMPLAINT ON SPAIN WITH THE ILO. UNDER QUESTIONING, KULAKOWSKI CONCEDED THAT THERE HAD BEENS SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN--NOT SO MUCH BECAUSE OF THE GOVERNMENT BUT BECAUSE OF POPULAR PRESSURE, HE CLAIMED. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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